

Student radio sta.

Booooooring! This town needs radio alternative

Clint Black... Paula Abdul... Extreme... Richard Marks... Pink Floyd... Alabama... AC / DC... Nelson... Christopher Cross... Hank Williams, Jr....

Welcome to FM radio in the Oklahoma City area. Variety? Yes. Interesting? Rarely.

Yes, you do have a choice when scanning your FM radio dial.

More choice than many people think. In fact, I found eight different formats on FM radio in the metro area. And out of the 14 stations I called, they were divided this way: two contemporary hit radio (top 40), two National Public Radio, three adult contemporary, two adult contemporary Christian, one classic rock, one album-oriented rock, and, believe it or not, only two country and western stations on FM.

But all of this so-called variety still bores me.

Call me selfish. Call me hard to please. Call me ungrateful. But I can't stand to listen to the radio anymore.

In my quest to find a station I can stomach, I have spent the past two years transcending just about every format and every station.

Classic Rock. A friend of mine made a comment about the whole classic rock radio format. He asked, "Do you ever hear a song that you don't know by heart?"

He was right. I'd had enough of Pink Floyd every 10 minutes and REO Speedwagon every hour on the hour. Next, please.

Country and Western. So I tried country and, don't get me wrong, I liked it. But I found out quickly that one only needs to listen to country for about an hour every four months to stay on top of what's going on in Nashville.

"A college radio station could put Norman on the map in the music business."

National Public Radio. During the war (remember that?) I listened to KGOU, the OU station. I really enjoyed the news programs and the music was great to listen to while studying. But I needed a little more excitement than KGOU had to offer.

When the rumors started floating around campus last spring that we were trying to bring a true student-operated station to the OU community, I was immediately interested. When the petition appeared on the South Oval to gain support for such a station, I signed it twice (just kidding, but I would have liked to.)

I guess what I would like to see is an alternative. No, not necessarily an *alternative music* station, but just an alternative to the monotony on the radio now. A station for the students, run by the

students.

The perfect radio station would have no set format. It would play such a wide array of music that it could not be characterized. At a university as diverse (or trying to be) as ours, certainly a true student radio station would do wonders for the local cultural scene.



JIM BENSON
C O L U M N I S T

Many students might wonder what good another radio station would be. Well, believe it not, a college radio station could put Norman, Okla. on the map in the music business. Farfetched? No way.

Think about Athens, Ga. Just another football-crazed southern town near a major city with a not-so-big state university. (Sound familiar?)

Well, Athens just happens to be one of the hotbeds for new talent in music today. And all because of a college radio station there that decided to play such local bands as R.E.M., the B-52s, Indigo Girls, and Guadalcanal Diary. Anymore, it seems like any band from Athens with any kind of talent gets national exposure (or at least a cameo appearance on their album by Michael Stipe.)

If you haven't noticed, Norman has a few bands of its own. But there's not a *single* station that will play them this side of Dallas.

If you've been keeping up at all you know that efforts are already underway to get a station like this here at OU. The Norman Alternative Radio Committee has been formed and has already staged a fundraiser to cover the vast expenses involved in such an undertaking.

There's so much optimism that it has been said that we might have our station by spring break.

But it's not going to just happen. Student support of the fundraisers would help immensely. Just a basic awareness and a general interest in a new station would do some good. And I really believe that the majority of the students who are indifferent about the whole thing right now would end up being the most devoted listeners.

A college radio station here at OU is just one more small thing that we need to gain the reputation as a culturally diverse university and a great college town.

And most importantly, it would be great to listen to something fresh once in awhile.

Jim Benson is a Duncan Sophomore who wants his MTV. Wait, that was 1981.